

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003

28 February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Chief, WHD

SUBJECT : Use of PBHISTORY Documents by Office of Intelligence
Research, Department of State

1. The following information is the result of a telephone conversation between the writer and Mr. Myron Bergin, PBHISTORY, DC/OIR, Department of State.

2. In response to the writer's question as to whether the OIR Office had completed its research of PBHISTORY documents, Mr. Bergin replied that within a few days a general report summarizing the decade of Communist subversion in Guatemala would be published. According to Mr. Bergin, this 40 to 50 page document would give general background on what transpired in Guatemala during the last ten years, particularly the last four years when Communist activity reached a peak of organization efficiency. This report would answer the primary question of how Communism came about in Guatemala.

3. Later, Mr. Bergin replied that a series of tables specifically utilizing PBHISTORY documents as examples would point out the specific aspects of the Communist take-over in all fields of endeavor in Guatemala.

4. Mr. Bergin said that his office expected to make continuous use of the more than 50,000 documents which had been sorted out of the huge mass found in Guatemala. This large number of documents has necessitated a careful collation and sorting in Washington, and with the limited number of personnel available to this work it is just now reaching completion of the first stage, that is, the publication of the first broad summary document.

5. Mr. Bergin advised that CIA in particular and the appropriate representatives of the Intelligence Community in general would receive copies of their work. He concluded by stating that publication of such a paper would have been impossible without the use of PBHISTORY documents.

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